

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 AID-05 OPR-02 /069 W
----- 027930

P R 172110Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1470

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (E.O. -TAGS - SUBJ OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, ES, HO

SUBJECT: REPORTS OF TENSION ALONG BORDER

1. THE HONDURAN PRESS RPORTED THAT A STATE OF TENSION HAD DEVELOPED IN THE BORDER AREA OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VALLE. THE TENSION WAS REPORTEDLY MAINLY CONCENTRATED IN THE AREA OF THE FRONTIER CLOSE TO THE BORDER-CROSSING TOWN OF EL AMATILLO. ACCORDING TO REPORTS THE HONDURAN ARMY PLACED ITS UNITS IN VALLE ON ALERT AFTER NOTING "UNUSUAL" TROOP MOVEMENTS ON THE SALVADORAN SIDE OF THE BORDER. THE SENSATIONALIST LA NOTICIA REPORTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN ARMED CLASH BETWEEN SALVADORAN AND HONDURAN TROOPS IN ARAMECINA AND THAT CASUALTIES WERE BEING SENT TO CHOLUTECA.

2. LT. COLONEL EFRAIN GONZALEZ, MINISTER OF INFORMATION, STATED ON THE RADIO AND IN A PRESS RELEASE THAT COMPLETE TRANQUILLITY REIGNED ALONG THE BORDER EXCEPT IN THE AREA
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OF EL AMATILLO. HE STATED THAT SOME SALVADORAN TROOP

MOVEMENTS HAD BEEN NOTED AND THAT THE HONDURANS HAD ADOPTED A DEFENSIVE STANCE UNTIL THE SITUATION WAS CLARIFIED. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE SITUATION HAD NOT ALTERED THE EXISTING STATUS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

3. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT THE SITUATION IN THE AREA IS CALM. HOWEVER, THIS TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT DOES NOTHING BUT CREATE FURTHER FEARS AND TENSIONS ALONG THE BORDER. WHILE THERE IS A "HOT LINE" BETWEEN MILITARY COMMANDS, THERE IS ALWAYS A DANGER THAT SOME PATROL ACTION COULD RESULT IN A SERIOUS INCIDENT. WE HAVE INDICATED OUR CONCERN ABOUT SUCH A POSSIBLE INCIDENT AND HAVE REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED OUR BELIEF THAT IMMEDIATE AND REGULAR COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE MILITARY COMMANDS ARE A NECESSITY IF SUCH DEVELOPMENTS ARE TO BE AVOIDED OR MINIMIZED.
SANCHEZ

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